

KOJIMA PATENT OFFICE

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July 30, 2003

Attn: M-Haile
Customer Service Center
Initial Patent Examination Division
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/442,638

Dear Sir,

We have received Filing Receipt and "Notice to File Missing Parts" dated July 18, 2003 for the above application.

We have searched our records and cannot locate any new U.S. patent application filed on May 16, 2003 which matches the information on the enclosed Filing Receipt.

It may possibly be the case U.S. Patent application No. 09/899,107 which we are handling entrusted by Nisshinbo Industries, Inc.

It would be very helpful to us if you provide us with some more information or explanation on these communications so that we are able to find which case it is.

Should you have any questions, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

Eriko Hikari

for Takashi Kojima

TK/eh